

# The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper



## 'Sitting' at the bar

### DUMBO joint will watch your kids while you dine

By Dana Rubinstein  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

The war between childless bar-goers and the so-called stoolie Mafia has ended at one restaurant: the eatery is offering on-site babysitting to both children in a separate room while their parents — and everyone else — fine and drink in peace.

Jeffrey Rodman, the owner of DUMBO's Water Street Restaurant and Lounge, has joined forces with Manhattan company called Parent Play to provide babysitting during dinner time at the restaurant, which is between Main and Dock streets in the increasingly kid-populated neighborhood.

"Anything's better than having screaming children in a restaurant," said Rodman.

Kids and bars. It's an issue that has gained traction as more and more establishments have banned the smaller set (hello, Union Hall) despite the risk of losing parents as customers.

Rodman's solution was to bring in Parent Play.

Eric Kaplan, who founded Parent Play with his wife a year and a half ago, said the service was easy to use: Parents call the company to:

make both a dinner and babysitter reservation. At the restaurant, the babysitter, equipped with toys and play mats, goes to the child going home with the wrong adult — and then the babies go play while the parents eat.

"It's even a 'curriculum' to help guide play-time — from music lessons to Spanish lessons to building blocks. Why shouldn't your kid learn his 'uno, dos, tres' while sitting in your first, second and third drinks?"

Bob Maresca and his wife were one of four couples that used the service on Valentine's Day.

"It was more of an adult experience," said Maresca, who has a 10-month-old son. "He was on the play mat with the sitter, and they took him to the bathroom in a little wooden train set." It was cute.

"My wife and I enjoy having a date once in a while," continued Maresca.

The cost of the service, even with Water Street footing some of the bill, is \$18 for one child, \$25 for two, and \$30 for three.

The service is available at three Manhattan restaurants, Kaplan said; Water Street is thus far the only Brooklyn venue.

## Now leaving Little Poland

By Ben Muessig  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

"On the shelves of Polish grocery stores in Greenpoint, bottles of Mountain Dew and Diet Coke are beginning to crowd out liters of Zywiec Zdroj and Nataczowianka. But it's not just groceries that are becoming more American. Brooklyn's Little Poland, The neighborhood is, too."

"Nearly half the Polish people who used to live in Greenpoint have moved away," said Walter Gail, co-owner of Staropolski Meat Market on Manhattan Avenue. "Here in Greenpoint we have an increasing number of Polish immigrants. But the new immigrants are moving to Queens."

In 2005 and 2006, the number of Polish immigrants living in Brooklyn decreased

by 40%, while the number of Polish immigrants in Queens increased by 4,109, according Census statistics. The similarities in the numbers are striking.

"We noticed about five years ago when the rents [in Greenpoint] started to increase," said Steven Tychniak, owner of Staropolski Meat Market, a Nassau Avenue staple, which

has operated from the same storefront for the past 35 years. "Landlords started raising the rent and people from outside started buying up houses — some of the Polish people couldn't afford to stay."

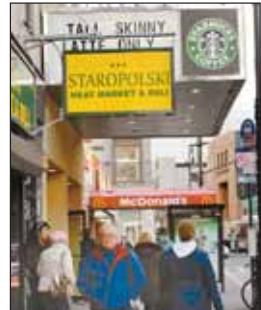
In Greenpoint, a one-bedroom apartment that rented for as little as \$700 a month in 2005, now rents for \$1,200-\$1,800, according to local broker Krys Kardasz.

In Ridgewood, Queens — where the number of Polish businesses and services — a similar apartment rents for \$1,000-\$1,200 per month.

And it's not just residential rents, Kardasz said. "Commercial rent has increased just as much, if not more."

It's no surprise who's driving the rents up into the neighborhood's increasingly high skyline. Young professionals who once nested on the Lower East Side in Manhattan are now seeking bargains in hipster Greenpoint — but those bargain rents are

See POLISH on page 14



American chains have displaced ethnic Polish businesses on Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint (above and left). But that's a heck of a cutlet below!



## Nothing for Nader This time, donors won't give a dime

By Ben Muessig  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

Days after perennial candidate Ralph Nader announced that he was running again for president, the very people who should have been cheering the loudest — left-wing Brooklynites — stayed away from his last two campaigns — were making a different kind of noise.

The noise of teeth gashing and fist-crunching.

Even the only Brooklynite who actually contributed money to Nader's 2004 campaign has cut ties to the twice-failed presidential hopeful.

"No way, not this time," said Ralph Bacchus, a Crown Heights man who sent Nader \$200 four years ago. "His campaign is finished, that's all."

As opposed to last time?

"At least I thought he'd get his message out," admitted Bacchus. This time, though, he doesn't.

So Bacchus has climbed off the broken down bandwagon of lost causes and is supporting Illinois Sen. Barack Obama for his "youthfulness and energy — and he's more vigorous and liberal than Hillary."

Bacchus what you will for supporting Nader (the "most responsible" man in mind), but if he's baited out, it's no wonder that Brooklynites who funded Nader's transcendent (I mean "infuriating")

### THE BROOKLYN ANGLE By Gersh Kuntzman

2000 run are also disenchanted.

"I'm not going to give him one dime right now so I won't be funding him again this time," said Sara Cross of Brooklyn Heights. "Actually,

I'm not sure why you're calling me about Ralph."

I had to remind Cross that she had donated \$400 to Nader's cam-

paign. (Imagine that! She'd actually pulled it out of her mind after the 2000 debacle.)

None of the other former Nader supporters returned my calls — and given the evidence that these out-of-towners are the ones who leave Nader in the dustbin of history.

Given that apathy — and given how much most Democrats (and, when I say "most," I mean most) mean to him, I mean to blame him for subjecting us to eight years of inept presidencies — I wondered why anyone would jump on Team Nader now. So I went to the Brooklyn Angle to find out.

There were a few, of course, though, curiously, most of them were either disconnected or didn't exist. And one signer was named Travis Bickle, so it's hard to tell how many real human beings support Nader.

But there's good news for you Nader lovers out there (yes, I'm talking to you on the phone): The "Kucinich for President" sign still in your window? Three people have posted online that they're interested in joining a Nader "Meetup" group in Brooklyn.

Alas, no one has set up the group yet.



## 'Miss'-ing Brooklyn

It hasn't been an easy reign for Miss Brooklyn Leigh-Taylor Smith. Despite her obvious qualifications (above), Smith found herself under fire for, of all things, being a Manhattanite. See page 12 for our exclusive interview with the queen of Kings, who takes on her critics.

See WATER on page 12

# H<sub>2</sub>WHOA!

## Food Co-op to ban bottled water

By Dana Rubinstein  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

The Park Slope Food Co-op is poised to ban the sale of bottled water, reaffirming that the store stands as a leader of self-conscious environmentalism.

The ban, if approved by a vote of the Co-op's 12,000 members, would apply to all plastic and glass bottles of water (though distilled and carbonated water would be exempt).

Co-op General Manager Joe Holtz predicted the proposal would pass this spring, thanks to the members' supermarket's family-oriented environmental ethic.

"Even my 11-year-old daughter is aware of the transportation cost and energy waste that comes with plastic bottles," said Park Slope Co-op member Katia Righetti. "I think everyone should start becoming aware of the problem."

The problem is: 30 million or so bottles end up in landfills every day, environmentalists say, and vast amounts of the bottles are made from petroleum — roughly 1.5 million barrels of oil a year, enough to fuel 100,000 cars, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

More than New York City tap water is generally better than bottled water, since city standards are more stringent than the Food and Drug Administration's.

Such members are what motivated Food Co-op General Manager Karellebaum to put the issue on the local agenda.

In August, 2006 — during the height of the bottled water season — Karellebaum



The Park Slope Food Co-op is moving to ban bottled water.

PLASTIC BAG BONUS  
DUMBO grocer saves you a dime  
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sparked a discussion on the Park Slope Parents message board when she encouraged neighbors to kick their Aquafina addiction and then fill up at the tap instead.

She also suggested — in further Park Slope style — that locals "put aside \$1 every time we don't buy bottled water for the next 12 months and then give it to a local natural organization."

This week, Karellebaum told The Brooklyn Paper that she strongly supported the Co-op's proposed ban.

"Bottled water is a completely unnecessary product for most people, and only serves to harm the environment," she said.

The Co-op, on Union Street and Seventh Avenue, has long been miles ahead of the environmental curve. It began charging for plastic bags 20 years ago, an issue that only now are other stores confronting. And the Co-op has long been

self on its organic and free-range products.

That said, at least one Co-op member described himself as "not terribly excited about banning bottled water."

We do know that the effects of the plastic ban on the environment," said Hugh English, a Park Slope resident. "However, what we are faced with constantly are these plastic bottles that are filling up our oceans, plastic bottles that don't quite do enough."

And this, being the Co-op, some ban supporters found a way to turn an environmental initiative into a class war.

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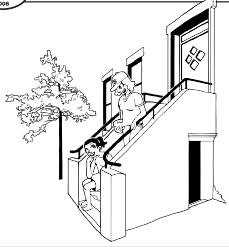
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# THE STOOP

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

## PARK SLOPE



Our columnist was lucky enough to get inside the only Park Slope night spot, Club Loco.

## Is Club Loco too loco?

I am one of a handful of privileged Park Slope adults. I have seen the inside of Club Loco. For those who do not know, Club Loco is a monthly teen "nightclub," an evening of bands and a place to hang out with friends inside the Old First Church. It's unique in the strict "no-parents, no-teachers" policy. The only grown-ups who are there are the hired security guard and the chaperones, who are all in their 20s (which is sort of like an adult, I guess).

So why was I allowed inside this teenage "nightclub"? Well, it's because I'm also in my 20s (just kidding). Actually, Club Loco is now celebrating its one-year anniversary and the leaders of the organization are looking for new ideas and fresh leadership, so it seemed like a little publicity would be a good idea.

When I once entered, it did feel different from a high school dance. Everyone inside the place was practically a newborn — or so it seemed to me. Even if I could throw myself back in old teenage times, my high school years were here, with an adult presence, mostly teachers getting overtime for this thankless task.

I stuck out like an SUV at an NRDC meeting. I couldn't wait to leave.

"That's how you are supposed to feel," I was told by Henry C., a 16-year-old Park Slope musician who helped found Club Loco and is a monthly resident of the place. The fact that the veterans of the teen scene seem to be a successful part of Club Loco's present in the neighborhood.

Otherwise, though, the Club Loco experience seems to be a mixed bag for local teens. And not surprisingly, the reasons some teens have conflicted feelings about it are probably the very same things that make it a cool place to go.

"I've always had a really good time there," said Grace G., a 15-year-old. "Everyone goes there to see friends, but sometimes they go overboard with searching people." She met a big group of people there, and she thinks her friends are cool.

"I've never yelled at for dancing hands with my girlfriend," Jack S., 17, told me, and he says that dancing tends to be discouraged in case it gets out of control.

But teens who are musicians, like Jack S., also appreciate the fact that Club Loco is another place where they can perform and go to listen to music.

"It's really good for a band that is just starting out," he says. On the other hand, he is strongly opposed to censorship and he feels that it is the job of a "metal" band to include talk about blood and gore in their lyrics.

"It's still primarily a church, and they're very clear about that," he says.

It probably comes as no surprise that the adult in charge doesn't see it that way.

"It is home to the church, but otherwise it has nothing to do with the church," says Lois Wingerter, Club Loco's current leader. It was her daughter who had the idea for the club. Now in college, Wingerter's daughter spent her teen years in the Slope to convince her mother that going to one of the teen hangouts in the city was perfectly safe.

Wingerter's research revealed otherwise. These teen "clubs" were typically poorly monitored and the police never screened.

One day, instead of large crowds, the church was at Club Loco, her mother said. "You know, with the right lighting and comfortable places to sit, this could make a fabulous space for a club."

The Park Slope Civic Council awarded Club Loco a seed grant. The funds will be used for the purchase of some furniture, including a piano, to draw teens to sit on, and lighting and decorations to transform the space.

So what is the future for Club Loco? That is the most teens really prefer to hang out at their friend's houses, or just to wander the streets for hours — more than one person does. But most seem to think it is a great place to go and listen to music with their peers, and it is valued by most of them for that reason.

It's the age-old dilemma. No matter how innovative and no matter how hard adults try, teenagers are people who crave freedom and respect from others. And adults are people who typically choose to worry over that.

**Wendy Ponte** is a freelancer writer who lives in Park Slope.

## THE KITCHEN SINK

Windsor Terrace: Bishop Ford High football hero Golshan

"Call me Gio" Ozkan got a scholarship at the University of Buffalo. Now the Ford star is on to Division I School. Go get em, Golshan! Brooklyn: Board of Health: Local politicians, leaders in Bay Ridge and Park Slope — are raising money to fight obesity. Stop by either location before March 13 and the cost of your fitness class will be donated to HeartSmart. For information, call (718) 238-9400 in Bay Ridge or (718) 965-6200 in the Slope. ... Eight more years. For the eighth annual street fair, **Myrtle Golden** will offer free preparation for seniors at his Ford office. To make an appointment, call (718) 238-6044. When E.F. Hutton talks, people listen, but when Golden opens his office, people flock — so make an appointment today. ... **Park Slope: Purple**: They don't have a purple bean joint is one of the few things this jan-junior March 15, 2008.

Big news from the jan-junior **13th Street Block Association**. They're getting a speed bump between Seventh and Eighth avenues, and the block party will be March 21. The group's meeting, at PS 107, was such a hot ticket that Community Board 6 bigwig **Craig Hammerman** stopped by. Hammerman, of course, is a big booster of volunteerism (and he's also running for Council). Email **Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com**

## BAY RIDGE

# Nice place to visit or die

Two deaths in three months at Gregory Hotel spur talk

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

Three months, two deaths, one hotel — and everyone is talking.

Bay Ridge is practically buzzing over the two bizarre deaths at the Best Western Hotel Gregory this winter — the first, back in December, when a 20-year-old woman allegedly fatally stabbed herself in what she said was self-defense, and the second coming last week, when a 52-year-old man committed suicide in a bathroom at the Four Points hotel.

One resident says the deaths as possible bellwether for the neighborhood.

"Things change, but not always for the best," said Blanche, an elderly resident of nearby 82nd Street who didn't want to share her last name.

The two deaths, the two arrests, was almost as unbelievable as the crimes themselves.

"We're shocked, because it's a very nice place," Blanche added.

It was not easy for others to process either.

"It was a little nerve-wracking for my family to see the cops again," said Paul Guyette.

Even both deaths were surprising to an investigator another death at the neighborhood's most respectable hotel. The 61-year-old Gregory Hotel is where many of the city's relatives stay when visiting grandparents, and where baseball teams sometimes stay when they're playing the Cyclones.

There is another hotel nearby, at 93rd Street, but it has a reputation as a "hot sheets" joint, given its hourly rates. That's what made the dual crime at the Gregory stand out.

"Everyone remembered the stabbing and then, the suicide," said Sgt. John Stripe, a community affairs officer with the 68th Precinct. "Everyone was talking about it."

What they were talking about is this: Cops say that on Dec. 2, Pamela Hanson, 20, of Bedford-Stuyvesant, fatally knifed David Diaz, a janitor, at the hotel in Queens, where Hanson was a dancer. The two had checked into the hotel together, next to his home, but Hanson walked away alone. She claims she killed Diaz to protect herself when he got rough in bed, but she also admits to having had the weapon under a pillow before the stabbing became fatal.

Now, she's facing second-degree murder charges.

Then, on Feb. 18, a cleaning woman discovered residence Paul Menzo's body on the

bathroom floor. Duct tape covered his mouth, but police determined that it was a suicide. Menzo, a widower with an 11-year-old son, was possibly a gambling problem to boot, Newsday reported.

Recent guests were unaware that they had checked into the Do Not Enter Inn.

"You'd never know it from the look of the hotel," said George Brown, who was in Brooklyn on business. "The fact that two things happened in such a short time is never comfortable news. But life goes on."

Hotel employees would not comment for the story, following company policy.

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# FAKE MONEY STOLEN!

The Brooklyn Paper

## 78th Precinct

### PARK SLOPE

A bear-loving perp assaulted a bodega clerk and then stole fake money from the store's wall before running away on Feb. 26.

The action started at 3 p.m., when the thief entered the bodega, on Fifth Avenue between Carroll Street and Garfield Place, and promptly grabbed a bottle and cracked the fridge.

But the wash room inside, he ran behind the counter, smashed the worker with the bottle and tried to open the register.

Finishing this, he grabbed congegratulatory cash off the wall behind the counter.

"It's fake!" said the clerk, but the thief didn't care, grabbing the \$5 and \$100 bills before alight gone inside her bodega, which is between Fourth and Fifth avenues, at around 5:25 p.m. when a 5-foot-6, 150-pound man approached, pulled a gun and said, "Just give me the bag and don't move."

She complied with the demand and handed over the bag, which contained her UN identification card, her Belgian driver's license, \$200, a cellphone and her iPod.

The perp fled and was not found during a canvas of the area, cops said.

### Big burglary

A burglar who took more than \$6,500 in jewelry, computers and electronics from two Sixth Street apartments during the day on Feb. 28.

The victim, a 30-year-old woman tenant, told cops that she wasn't home between 11:20 and 5:30 p.m. when the thief broke in through the kitchen window of the fourth-floor apartment, which is at 13th Street.

With no one home, the thief, in a black jacket and a 19-inch flat-screen TV, a Playstation gaming system, a valuable gold crucifix and a gold ring.

The other tenant, across the hall, told cops he is a lawyer, a computer, a \$2,000 watch and a diamond necklace and bracelet.

Cops also told cops that the key to the safe is always kept in a hallway closet, masking this safe-cracking a little easier than the ones in the kitchen.

The thief then got \$40,407 in rocks and gold and the unit, which is between Seventh and Eighth avenues.

### Eating them

Thieves hit three restaurants and one nightspot in the past two weeks, cops said.

In the first case, a popular Seventh Avenue Italian wine bar was broken into sometime after closing on Feb. 19.

The thief or thieves took paychecks and W-2 forms, a precursor to a future identity theft.

The next day, the owner of a Fifth Avenue restaurant told cops that when he opened his eatery, which is at the corner of Third Street, at 4:30 a.m., he discovered that the front door had been broken into and a cash box was missing.

A diabolical crook stole the woman's purse and its contents, which are valued at \$369, from an unwatched table at around 10:30 p.m.

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# FAKE MONEY STOLEN!

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Gang banged

An 11th Street man was pummeled and mugged by a gang of four in broad daylight on Feb. 28 — but the fearsome foursome was soon collared, cops said.

The 46-year-old victim told cops that he was walking on 10th Street between Eighth and Ninth avenues at around 2:15 when the gang — all boys, ages 15 to 17 — attacked him from behind.

After being beaten, the boy ran home, the pack stole \$80, various credit and debit cards, an iPod and four sculptures.

Police arrested four suspects, but details were not available.

### Worldly unaware

A man from Brooklyn was robbed at gunpoint inside her Degraw Street apartment as she returned from work on Feb. 27.

The 34-year-old woman told the perp she didn't care, grabbing the \$5 and \$100 bills before fleeing on foot.

Finishing this, he grabbed congegratulatory cash off the wall behind the counter.

"It's fake!" said the clerk, but the thief didn't care, grabbing the \$5 and \$100 bills before fleeing on foot.

Cops did not reveal how much money was taken in the early morning theft.

Three days later, a Fifth Avenue nightclub lost a cash register.

A 25-year-old woman who broke into the club at around 2 a.m. on Feb. 28 was soon arrested.

The 46-year-old victim told cops that she had

been drinking and dancing.

After being beaten, the boy ran home, the pack stole \$80, various credit and debit cards, an iPod and four sculptures.

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### Shy on the 78th

A 41-year-old woman was

robbed at gunpoint inside her Degraw Street apartment as she returned from work on Feb. 27.

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### Band of stole

A cop was broken into on Feb. 29.

This time, the thief or

thieves got away with a cash register and \$100 from the register.

The 46-year-old victim told cops that he had

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Police arrested four suspects, but details were not available.

### Hide the keys

A 41-year-old woman

was dismissed her

son's claim that he

saw a strange man standing in

the vestibule of their house on

Feb. 25.

The woman said that day it

was clear that something had

happened after all.

Police say the family's car

was stolen from the vestibule

of the house, which is located

between Lincoln and Berkeley

places.

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Police arrested four suspects, but details were not available.

### Butterfingers

An 86th Street store

was very close to being robbed on

Feb. 24, but was not, thanks to

the criminal's butterfingers and a quick customer.

The would-be perp entered

the store, which is near Bay

Street, at around 11:20 a.m.

He suddenly reached behind

the back, grabbed an envelope

out of his hands, police said.

But a customer standing be-

hind the perp saw the whole inci-

dent, grabbed the envelope out

of his hands, police said.

The embarrassed thief fled

empty-handed.

## POLICE BLOTTER

### PARK SLOPE

Somewhere the perp got all of

the goods out of the building without being seen by neighbors, cops said.

**Love lost**

Her's the latest example of

what you should always be

careful when you bring home

after a night of drinking and dancing.

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*The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the art of Kings*

March 8, 2008

# Food for thought

**TV's Ted Allen talks about dining out and giving back**

By Adam Rathe  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

**T**ed Allen's one lucky foodie. On Monday, March 10, the Clinton Hill resident and television personality — refers to himself as "cable famous" — will have a chance to combine two of his passions: food and philanthropy, when he hosts "Savor," an evening of fun, fundraising and French fare being held to benefit the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC).

Allen, best known for his food and wine expertise on television shows like "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," "Top Chef" and "Iron Chef," will ence the benefit for the non-profit GMHC, which works extensively to educate Brooklynites about HIV and AIDS.

"I feel like I'm not worthy," Allen said. "I've done a lot of this kind of stuff in the last two years, and one of the nice things about what makes it kind of cable fame is that you can really help organizations that they believe in, and that's a real thrill."

The fundraiser, which will also honor activist Urvashi Vaid, will include a wine and silent auction and a cocktail reception, but most appealing to Allen is the four-course French dinner, prepared by notable chefs from Manhattan restaurants like Au Revoir, Orey & Mas (Faroehouse). He has lived in Clinton Hill for eight months, though, Allen knows that Manhattan doesn't have the French food market cornered.

"One nice surprise about my neighborhood is the French population, which I had no idea about before," said Allen, who frequents the Osbornes and raves about Abisous on Carlton Avenue. The neighborhood's restaurants aren't the only place for a gourmet to grab a snack, though.



## DINING

"Savor" will be held at 7 p.m. on March 10 at Skylight Studios (275 Hudson St. in Manhattan), and tickets cost \$100. Call (212) 367-1557 or visit [www.gmhc.org](http://www.gmhc.org).

**"One of the nice surprises about my neighborhood is the French population."**

— Ted Allen

"I'm over the moon about Green Grape Provisions. I bought groceries there two nights ago to make a Mexican chicken dish," said Allen, whose kitchen is to be remodeled. "It's a little cheap place but there's no place anywhere around here; they don't stock rack of lamb at the Associated. It fills a huge need for people who don't have a grocery."

With the popularity of reality shows featuring cooking — like the ones Allen likes — it's ones that Brooklynites seem to be trying their hand at making their own gourmet meals instead of always going out to eat.

"There is so much greater interest in food, wine, good coffee, chocolate and cheese," said Allen. "It only makes sense that more people are taking an interest in it."

Indeed, even those who attend the \$1,000-a-ticket "Savor" event will be sent home with a gift from GMHC supporters including Liz Smith, Tina Fey, Miss Universe 2007, Riyo Mori, to try out in their own kitchens. Of course, cooking at home is made exponentially easier when your kitchen isn't the cramped, constrictive affair inside most New York apartments.

"Exploring the kitchen can be hard to do when you live here," said Allen. "A couple of

Living here in Allen-town: Clinton Hill food-guru Ted Allen savors Brooklyn's French fare and BBQ outposts alike. Among Allen's TV ventures are (far left) "Iron Chef" (with Mark Dacascos and Mario Batali) and (bottom) "Top Chef" (with Padma Lakshmi).

years ago, a friend of mine had an apartment in SoHo and had to borrow chairs from her neighbors if she wanted to invite more people over for dinner. It's hard to cook when you don't have space or the right tools.

French food, when prepared at home or in a restaurant, is well treat in the borough — most neighborhoods have at least one serviceable place. It's messy eats, like barbecue, that Allen thinks is the latest fad to hit Kings County.

The big trend right now, that I've noticed, is all the great barbecue in Brooklyn," Allen noted. "I've been to the Little Piggy Market [in Fort Greene] and Fette Sau in Williamsburg. I love eating that way — it's got great flavor."

As far as things to come, however, Allen has more on his mind than just barbecue. While his home is still undergoing renovations, he's still in his Clinton Hill has this bohemian, literary, artsy vibe that you don't find in Chelsea anymore. Living in a high-rise, staked-out little boxes, you don't talk to people, and that's the community vibe — he's awaiting the March 12 debut of the third season of "Top Chef" and will continue to appear on "Iron Chef."

Additionally, Allen is working on pilots for two new shows, both waiting on food, but couldn't reveal much more.

"I'm looking for another TV home," he said. "It's a lot of fun, but I'm not hosting those shows."

For now, his hosting energies are all focused on "Savor," which will be sent home with a gift from GMHC supporters including Liz Smith, Tina Fey, Miss Universe 2007, Riyo Mori, to try out in their own kitchens. Of course, cooking at home is made exponentially easier when your kitchen isn't the cramped, constrictive affair inside most New York apartments.

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**Oven: the right idea of combining a wine bar & designer pizza place; a good move in Brooklyn Heights**

— Tina Barry, *The Brooklyn Paper*

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## DINING

### Ciao, chow

Das 200+ bite and drink fest, "Brooklyn Eats," is back! The ultimate smorgasbord celebration of the borough's restaurant scene, which was an annual event from 1997 through 2006 at the Brooklyn Marriott in Downtown Brooklyn, has announced its 2008 date and a new location: April 26 at 30 at Steiner Studios in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

#### BROOKLYN EATS!

The tasting event — which was cancelled in 2007 to be "reformulated," according to organizers at the time — will feature 30 restaurants. This year's edition is a departure from "Eats," as it will be organized by neighborhood and will include representatives from the New York City Association of Hotel Concierges and Tour Operators and the Guides Association of New York City.

At the "Brooklyn Eats," in September 2006, 44 of the borough's restaurants participated and scholarships were awarded to three New York City College of Technology hospitality management students, insuring that the borough's culinary talent continues to flourish.

"Brooklyn Eats" will be held from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on April 26 at Stage 6 at Steiner Studios in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. For information, visit [www.brooklyneatsonline.com](http://www.brooklyneatsonline.com). — Adam Rathe

## MUSIC

### 'Power trip'

For her performing debut with the Brooklyn Philharmonic on March 8 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, musician Leila Josefowicz is going to plug in her violin.

John Adams' "Dharma at Big Sur" calls for an electronic violin, but its challenges haven't dimmed Josefowicz's enthusiasm for the piece.

"It's one of my specialty pieces," the violinist told GO Brooklyn. "I love it. It's a hybrid piece between a western composition and an Indian-style raga. That's why I like it, it's neither one nor the other, but walks the line in between."

Performing with amplification does bring risks, Josefowicz admitted.

"It's very difficult to do, and I'm one of the few traditional soloists today who does this," she explained. "I have to practice a lot because it's amplified. I wouldn't hear myself otherwise."

"This is a major tradition that's being broken," she continued. "In an acoustic concert, the orchestra might overwhelm the soloist, but here, it's the other way around, which is kind of a power trip for me!"

For more information, call (718) 488-5700 or visit [www.brooklynproms.org](http://www.brooklynproms.org). — Kevin Filipek



Courtesy

## MUSIC

### Classic rock

"In our current commercial and popular culture, there may be no other rhapsody considered more celebrated than Queen's 'Bohemian Rhapsody,'" Sung Jin Hong, artistic director and conductor of One World Symphony, told GO Brooklyn. And on March 9, the Ditmas Park-based conductor will lead his orchestra in a performance of the song, as well as rhapsodies by Brahms and Donizetti in "Rhapsody: Metal vs. Classical."

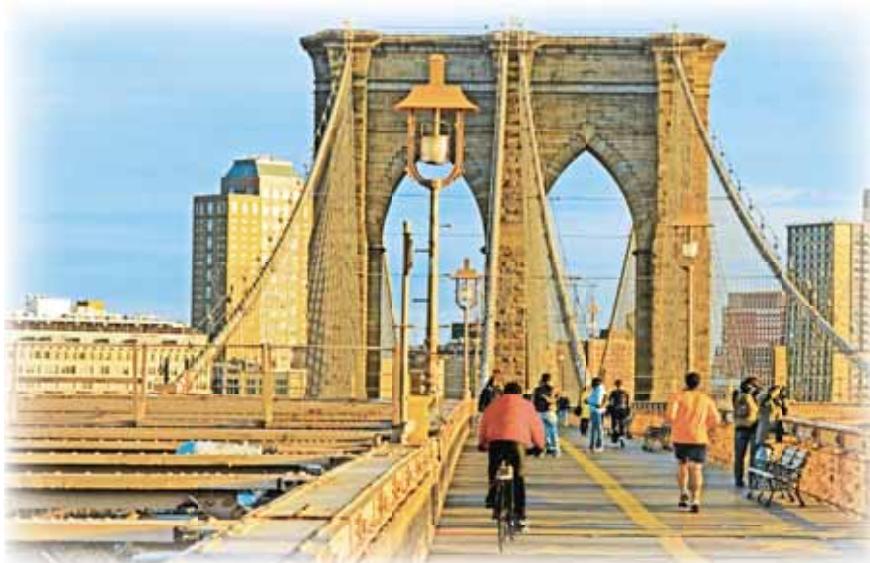
To more fully capture the sound that Queen created, Sung is employing the vocal group The Faust Line (pictured). For some orchestras, this might be a real stretch, but for One World, it's just an extension of the classical tradition.

Sung: "The vocal virtuosos, Pavarotti and Lisa, were considered rock stars and celebrities."

For information, call (718) 462-2720 or visit [www.oneworldsymphony.org](http://www.oneworldsymphony.org). — Adam Rathe



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**For more information, visit [www.maimonidesmed.org](http://www.maimonidesmed.org) or call (888) MMC-DOCS (662-3627).**



# All the right 'Notes'

**Brick Theater's innovative new adaptation of Dostoyevsky's classic sparkles in the dark**

By Deirdre Donovan  
for The Brooklyn Paper

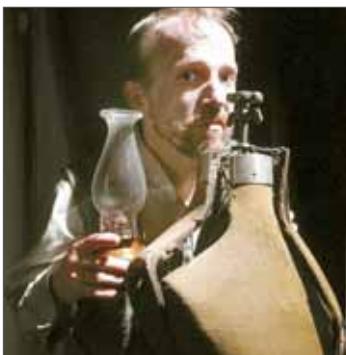
**W**HILEHURST's Brick Theater is heating up the winter theater scene with its reprise of its critically acclaimed production of Fyodor Dostoyevsky's "Notes from Underground." This five-part dramatic oratorio, which opened on March 22, explores the misanthropy of the eponymous Underground Man and mixes his macabre diatribes with a soundtrack of Russian tavern songs and string quartets. Impeccably directed and adapted by Michael Gardner, this intense, 90-minute show is a must-see for adventurous playgoers.

This was my first visit to the Brick, and I was immediately struck by its unique protocol in escorting ticket holders to their seats. At showtime, a guide leads the audience from the lobby area, through a narrow passageway, to the actual performance space. It's enough to make Alice in Wonderland weep.

I immediately noticed the theater's darkness and quiet; candlelight flickered over the primitive surroundings. Its promoters had described the show as "a dark, environmental production," but I was totally unprepared to be scooped into "Underground." Not only did I get a taste of "life below the floorsboards," I was pulled — hook, line and sinker — into an atmosphere evoking 19th-century Russia. It's true that the play is set in a tavern on the clausrophobic, less is more here.

I tucked into a seat at its edge, not far from the principal actor, who was already onstage. I was pleased to note how warmly Honeywell welcomed Dostoyevsky's Underground Man. He embodies the part of the 40-year-old former civil servant who has gone "underground" in his native St. Petersburg. With ragged clothes, a beard and palpable contempt etched into his mature features, Honeywell seemed born to play this role.

The set and props are Spartan. The



**Honeywell, I'm home:** Robert Honeywell shines as the Underground Man in the Brick Theater's climactic production of "Notes from Underground," on stage now through March 22.

writing instruments are — inch by inch — being dismantled — the most vital piece of stage. They dynamically emphasize the Underground Man's memoir, which is the central metaphor of the show. To be sure, variegated actions punctuate each scene, but his scribbled notes and personal outpourings are the backbone of the story.

The show opens with a cross-legged position of the stage. His fountain pen is poised in his hand, as if he's hesitant to commit his next thought to paper. His facial expression reveals a smoldering intensity, which in a moment erupts into

that he's well-read and enjoyed peaks in his civil service, he's acutely aware that he's deteriorated, has had "some debauchies" and fallen into a rut.

How to reverse his despicable lot? The answer is simple: "I must be cured," he crows, but with passion and exclamation, will "try to fix something in words."

The Brick has substituted its adapted version of Dostoyevsky's work, "a disjointed play," which is one, ironically, of the strengths of the original. Dostoyevsky earned much of his cultural distinction by introducing the anti-hero to world literature. And although many still flinch at the author's dissonant language and imagery, his example of the power of the word and Man is a literary force, and a prelude to his other great masterpieces.

Does the Brick's adaptation of "Notes from Underground" work as a concert piece? While it may not jell, it certainly is one of the most visually jolting shows I've seen. We may not be conventional theater, but surprisingly, the production succeeds with a kind of ragged aplomb. Gardner has written a top-notch version of Dostoyevsky's tale, and the Brick's production is true to the work or its structural intent.

No doubt the most innovative aspect to this stage adaptation is that it creates a kind of chorus for Underground Man, comprised of the ensemble. This is where the Brick's marketing genius telling us to "enjoy the story" from actors (Mona Stone, Alyssa Simon, Mick O'Brien, Health Kelis) sits in the audience and interrupt his masochistic ramblings. The ensemble's up-tempo performance develops into a kind of conversational dialogue with half a dozen arguments and opinions are worked, and then torn to tatters.

Far and away, the scenes with the ensemble are the most "alive" and "revered moments" produced in my recent viewing. (And, I dare say, the most disturbingly.) In these pivotal scenes, the production presents its sharpest intellectual bite, combining the voice of the ensemble with the creaked-spine anguish of Honeywell's Underground Man.

I do not believe that anyone could emerge from "Notes From Underground" unchanged, in some way transformed. The playgoer is asked that Dostoyevsky's classic is impossible to stage should you visit the Brick and see first-hand this spindlyville production, a smash hit at the 1999 New York International Fringe Fest. The credit goes to the ensemble cast in this production and scored a bull's eye.

## THEATER

Performances of "Notes from Underground," directed by Michael Gardner, continue at the Brick Theater through Saturday, March 22 at the Brick Theater (575 Metropolitan Ave. at Union Street). Tickets are \$15. For information, call (718) 907-6189 or visit www.bricktheater.com.

a series of staccato-like statements.

"I am sick man, I am man, I am man," he says, glancing at us out of the corner of his eye, dismissful, full of paranoia. His opening words, in their tritrophic rawness, might well index the rest of the evening's proceedings. As his monologue continues, we discover that he's been in this despairing state of mind and malaise for years. And, in spite of the fact

# CURTAIN CALL FOR FAMILY THEATER

By Adam Rathe  
The Brooklyn Paper

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Waiting in the Wings, show, call (718) 237-2752 or visit www.heightsplayers.org.

Through March 9, the Brooklyn College theater department is performing the black comedy "Lobby Hero" — written by Kenneth Lonergan of "Gangs of New York" fame — which follows a young security guard as he gets caught in a web of disorder investigated by MFA candidate Maurya Kelley; this production is on stage at the college's New Workshop Theater in Midwood. For information, call (718) 951-4500 or visit www.brooklyn.edu.

The final show, which will feature BFTF alumni performing, a film reel of the company's highlights and a giveaway of comic costumes, will be a bittersweet goodbye for the group that has launched the careers of Broadway actors, producers and playwrights from a church in Park Slope. For information, call (917) 957-2731.

\*\*\*

There's a new theater company in Downtown Brooklyn. On stage at the Triangle, the company begins Jan. 19 with a new adaptation of the famed Greek tragedy "Iphigenia at Aulis," the last surviving work by Euripides. Director Helen Richardson, who adapted the play, has cast actors from around the world with solid for so far, mostly because it was the first role they got.

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alumni performing, a film reel of the company's highlights and a giveaway of comic

costumes, will be a bittersweet goodbye for the group that has launched the careers of Broadway actors, producers and playwrights from a church in Park Slope. For information, call (917) 957-2731.

On Saturday, March 15, Tony award winner — and former "Chicago Hope" star — **Mandy Patinkin** is bringing his one-man musical theater concert to the Walt Whitman Theatre in Midwood. Accompanied by piano, Paul Potts, the show's heartthrob will belt out through Broadway hits and tracks from his seven solo albums.

"It's a big stage, but Mandy can fit the space and make it feel intimate," said Brianne Custer, Center Stage Performing Arts Artsistic Director. For information, call (718) 951-4500 or visit it www.broadwaycenteronline.com.

\*\*\*

Over at the Heights Players, **The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940** is being mounted through March 16. The John Bishop show, directed by Susan Monetz (who you might remember as a player in their production of "Jake & Worcester"), is a fun, mysterious romp through a 40s mansion where no one is safe. For information about this Brooklyn

company, call (718) 663-0428 or visit www.entertainmenttechnology.org.

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Also being feted in Manhattan is New York's newest theater company, resident **George Packer**, whose **"Berlin"** is a story based on his interviews with Iraqis during his travels to Baghdad. It runs through March 16 at Culture Project. For information, call (212) 352-3101 or visit www.cultureproject.org.

If you've got a theater news tip, e-mail Waiting in the Wings at GCBrooklyn@BrooklynPaper.com.

## 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 2

Brooklyn-based Musicians take part in talk. 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Brooklyn Public Library, 100 Flatbush Ave., 2nd floor. Pierrepont St. Reservations required. Call (718) 230-2202.

**GREENWOOD CEMETERY:** Book discussion: "The Devil's Gentleman: The Life and Death of Herman H. Schechter" leads talk. Also: take a trolley tour and visit gravesite of Herman H. Schechter, founder of the Cemetery of the Devils. Trolley tour, 1 p.m. Fifth Avenue and 25th Streets. Reservations required. Call (718) 230-2202.

**PANEL TALK:** Brooklyn Museum presents a panel discussion on "Art and the Body: Painting, Sculpture, Performance and Generation." \$8, \$4 seniors, free for members. Through March 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 200 Eastern Parkway. Call (718) 638-5000.

**OPENING:** Birth Day Present opens its studio, featuring child birth education classes and professional birth photography. Call (718) 489-5200. Free.

**TUES., MARCH 11** **ART TALK:** Clinton Hill Simply Art presents "Art Behind the Series" with artist Karen Roth. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 10 Carroll Ave. (718) 852-0227. Free.

**CLUBHOUSE:** Brooklyn Art Club presents "Artists in the Studio" with artist Karen Roth. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 10 Carroll Ave. (718) 852-0227. Free.

**ART TALK:** Clinton Hill Simply Art presents "Art Behind the Series" with artist Karen Roth. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 10 Carroll Ave. (718) 852-0227. Free.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12** **ART TALK:** Brooklyn Public Library's Midwood branch presents a talk for finders' information online. 6 p.m. 250 Cadman Plaza West. (718) 230-2202. Free.

**RENTERS WORKSHOP:** Brooklyn Public Library's Business branch hosts a talk to help finders' information online. 6 p.m. 250 Cadman Plaza West. (718) 230-2202. Free.

**THURS., MARCH 13** **AUTHOR TALK:** Brooklyn Public Library's Midwood branch presents a talk with Rebecca Hale, author of "Held at a Distance."



**Strike it Ridge:** The music of the great, white way hits Brooklyn on March 8 and 9 when the Ridge Repertory Company presents "From Broadway to Bay Ridge," a review of show-stopping musical theater moments.

She recounts her journey home to Ethiopia. 2 p.m., 95 E. 16th St. (718) 252-0907. Free.

**SENIOR EXERCISE PROGRAM:** Brooklyn Senior Exercise Program offers classes in tap dance, aerobics, piano management and more. \$5 day pass, \$10 weekly pass. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aviator Sports and Recreation, 100 Bennett Field. (718) 768-7500.

**CYRIO COOKING:** The Center for Kosher Culinary Arts presents a series of cooking classes for seniors. Call (718) 748-1020. 422 Seventh Ave. (718) 369-7737. RUMMAGE SALE: 12:30 p.m. Sat., March 8.

**MON., MARCH 10** **SENIOR MEETING:** AAC of Brooklyn presents a senior meeting. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hill Housing, 9000 Shore Rd. (718) 748-1020. Free.

**BEST WORKSHOP:** Church Avenue Merchants Business Association offers the talk "Artistic Opportunities in Brooklyn." 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sat., March 15.

**READING:** Author Gabriel Cohen reads from his book "Cormac McCarthy's 'Blood Meridian': A Disquiet Path Through Divorce." 7 p.m. Brooklyn Public Library, Court St. (718) 875-3677. Free.

**WEDS., MARCH 12** **SALSA FOR A CURE:** American Cancer Society, Brooklyn chapter presents a salsa class to benefit the fight against breast cancer. 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. 884 Franklin Ave. (718) 230-0200, ext. 242. Free.

**RENTERS WORKSHOP:** Brooklyn Public Library's Business branch hosts a talk to help finders' information online. 6 p.m. 250 Cadman Plaza West. (718) 230-2202. Free.

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**LAW COURSE:** Brooklyn Bar Association offers "Ethical Issues in Estate Planning." 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sat., March 15.

**KIDS WORKSHOP:** Brooklyn Center for Kosher Culinary Arts holds a demo on how to properly use knives and other kitchen tools. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sat., March 15.

**READING:** Author Gabriel Cohen reads from his book "Cormac McCarthy's 'Blood Meridian': A Disquiet Path Through Divorce." 7 p.m. Brooklyn Public Library, Court St. (718) 875-3677. Free.

**FRI., MARCH 14** **TEACHER WORKSHOP:** Brooklyn Arts Exchange offers a workshop on how to integrate personal stories into teaching. 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sat., March 15.

**SLEEP WITH THE FISHES:** Brooklyn Aquatic Society presents "Sleep with the Fishes," a talk and a silent auction. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sat., March 15.

**ARTIST TALK:** Museum of Contemporary Art presents "Doris Drösser: The Artistic Life." 7 p.m. Sat., March 15.

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## Hot 'Dram'

"Did you just walk in off the street?" a bartender at Dram Shop, a new Park Slope bar asked in when I walked in the door. On that day, he explained, the bar wasn't officially open yet, but he invited me to stay as long as I wanted and drink as much Brooklyn Dram.

This was my kind of place.

In addition to 12 taps, a full bar and a menu of simple grub like burgers and hand-cut fries (courtesy of former Grecery co-owners and Sweet Lived Livestock's Leslie Stockton), the now-open-for-business Dram Shop has the look of a little, inclusive frat house.

It's a surprise since Dram Shop is a male, Park Slope-based bar owned by women. On that day, he explained, the bar wasn't officially open yet, but he invited me to stay as long as I wanted and drink as much Brooklyn Dram.

We're both born and raised in Brooklyn, and we want this to be a real neighborhood bar," said Mallow. "You don't have to get all dressed

up to come here. It's the place you can hang out and drink all day without getting harassed."

Despite its name, Dram Shop, the name — a unit of measurement equal to one-eighth of an ounce, used in parts of the distillation process — is clearly an appeal to whiskey connoisseurs.

With activities like shuffleboard and pool, and a spacious outdoor area, there is plenty here to occupy you for hours on end. Bathrooms are clean, too, with full-length doors on individual stalls, so you could totally hook up if you wanted to.

We're not saying you should go just in exciting to know it's a possibility.

**Dram Shop Bar** (339 Ninth St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Open Sunday through Thursday, from 3 pm to 4 am, and Fridays and Saturdays, from noon to 4 am. For information, call (718) 788-1444.

— Chris Varnus

# Monster success

Local composer wins commission for 'Golem' score

By Marian Masoné  
For The Brooklyn Paper

**M**usic and movies have always made a great match. From cinema's earliest days, when music served as accompaniment to a film, until today, when film scores can make or break a "take," the two arts forms belong together.

And don't think that today's cinematic music is merely background for current releases; many musicians are writing scores for new experiments that are also creating new scores for classics. In Windsor Terrace resident Tom Nazzoli,

As one of the founding members of the BQE Project, a chamber ensemble dedicated to performing live scores to silent movies and classic films, Nazzoli knows how to show off his musical and cinematic knowledge when the BQE Project (yes, it's a band) performs at Brooklyn Queen Expresso. He performs the world premiere of his new score for the 1920 landmark silent film, "The Golem" at the Walt Whitman Theatre in Midwood on Sunday.

The film, directed by German actor Paul Wegener, is a classic in both style and story.

A wonderful example of German expressionism in cinema, it depicts the Hebrew legend to tell the tale of a rabbi who creates an inanimate creature out of clay to protect his community from persecution.

What Nazzoli's score for "The Golem" was commissioned by Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College campus (2000 Carroll St., between Fourth and Midwood). Tickets are \$20. For tickets, visit [www.BrooklynCenterOnline.org](http://www.BrooklynCenterOnline.org) or call (718) 230-4200.

"[This project] has allowed us to work with a great Brooklyn artist and



**He scores:** Windsor Terrace composer Tom Nazzoli premiered his new score for the silent classic, "The Golem" on Sunday at the Walt Whitman Theatre in Midwood.

develop and grow our audience," CBC Artistic Director Seth Solloway told GO. "I knew this could be a great performance for our audience that was hungry for classical music, and it allows us to do something new and fresh."

Nazzoli e-spoke with GO Brooklyn about how he came to identify with and be inspired by "The Golem."

The idea behind The BQE Project is to create "film scoring" and score it himself, Nazzoli says. "I want to bring all instances of audio/visual projection to our audiences with an emphasis on narrative music that supports a moving image."

But before the composer even sits down to pen the score, there is the daunting task of choosing an inspiring project.

"I screen countless films until I



find something that really resonates with me," said Nazzoli. "This can be a long process. My main emphasis is on narrative music that supports a strong feeling and direction behind it. This usually involves a well-told story or the delivery of concrete emotions. I have to enjoy the film itself. If the film is strong, the musical ideas will come."

Nazzoli said he was immediately drawn to "The Golem" and its underlying subject.

"I was immediately drawn to the intensity of the images (especially of the Golem) itself," he said. "I also thought it would be a great platform for creating a different perspective for my compositional style through studying music of other cultures."

Nazzoli spent six months creating the score for "Golem."

"I felt some kind of deep connection with the storyline. Similar to the 1931 classic 'Frankenstein,' the film makes empaths with viewers either the underdog, or the persecuted," he said. "I love films that reveal the plight of a person or group of people and allow us to empathize with them and possibly gain a new perspective."

"There is also a strong mystical element involved in ['The Golem'] which is something that I relate to on a musical and spiritual level."

Nazzoli, who has written music for Broadway musicals, as well as TV documentaries and animation, is a versatile composer with dreams of scoring for Hollywood.

"I've done a few independent films as well as some newer music for early talkies (classic films) such as Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein' and Josef von Sternberg's 'The Blue Angel,'" said Nazzoli. "These are two films that had dialogue on the screen, but no film score; they were created in the early 1930s at a time when composing music for film was at its infancy."

"Since I ultimately desire to work on a current film out of Hollywood, writing early talkies enables me to practice my hand at underscoring scenes until I can segue into the West Coast scene."

All of which brings Nazzoli and his wife, Jennifer, to the world premiere of "The Golem" score for Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts on March 9.

Conducted by Nazzoli, the musicians will play violin, cello, acoustic bass, piano, guitars (electric, nylon and mandolin) and ethnic percussion.

"I mentioned to [BCBC] that 'The Golem' was a film I was interested in doing. [They] actually offered to commission me to compose a new score for this film, which is exactly what one needs to get a major project like this in motion. I've thought about doing 'The Golem' for years and always hoped that there would be an opportunity to create a new score for live performance."

BCBC regulars will remember the BQE Project from its 1998 performance there of its first film score reconstruction — Charlie Chaplin's "City Lights."

Said Nazzoli, "I guess we've come full circle."

Marian Masoné is director of festivals and associate program director for the Film Society of Lincoln Center.

## CINEMA

Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents Paul Wegener's silent film

"The Golem" with live musical accompaniment by Tom Nazzoli on March 9 at the Walt Whitman Theatre on the Brooklyn College campus (2000 Carroll St., between Fourth and Midwood). Tickets are \$20. For tickets, visit [www.BrooklynCenterOnline.org](http://www.BrooklynCenterOnline.org) or call (718) 230-4200.

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Leigh-Taylor Smith (r) learns that she won the title of Miss Brooklyn as fellow contestant Carlon Alexandra (l) watches.

## It's not easy being queen

### Miss Brooklyn speaks!

By Mike McLaughlin  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

Uneasy the head that wears a tiara.

Now-crowned Miss Brooklyn Leigh-Taylor Smith has been engulfed by controversy ever since she, a Manhattan resident, won the pageant over six rivals on Feb. 23.

"I can't believe all the 'controversy' of me taking the title back to Manhattan," Smith, 22, told *The Brooklyn Paper* this week. "I really didn't expect it."

The 6-foot-2 Smith, who grew up against Smith — real Brooklynites can always see a punch coming, after all — but the Virginian has been back this week, an effort to挽回 her score with borough parents.

In doing so, Smith made a solid — if inconsistent — argument for being a Miss Brooklyn.

To those who complained that Smith only won the title because Brooklyn women have better things to do than stroll a runway in a bikini, Smith said being

beauty icon is only a hobby.

"Look, I moved here to work, not to compete," she said, referring to her success in the interior design world.

She also lived up to her "Miss Brooklyn" title by herself (she still hasn't accepted invitations from Mayor Bloomberg and Borough President Markowitz).

And she's certainly opinionated about the rich Brooklyn trait. Indeed, she said, Markowitz should run for mayor.

"He should run, and I'll support him," she said, adding that what makes her a good Brooklynite or not one.

And her strong opinions stopped short of taking a stand on the controversial Brooklyn development project, Atlantic Yards.

"You can't do this to me!" she laughed. "I've only been here for a week."

Then again, she's not alone in panning on Atlantic Yards — even New York Sen. Hillary Clinton hasn't staked a position on the project.

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# Update: CUNY gives Ratner failing grade

By Gersh Kuntzman  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

The City University of New York scotched a plan to hire Bruce Ratner to build a new residential tower skyscraper in Brooklyn because the Atlantic Yards developer would be too expensive, too slow and too controversial, *The Brooklyn Paper* learned.

A newly surfaced memo shows that CUNY wanted out of its deal to pay Ratner \$307 million — plus \$10 million in 2005 — to build a new facility for City Tech on Jay Street because costs had begun to rise.

"Cost estimates for the project increased dramatically — approximately \$50 million," CUNY Vice Chancellor Iris Marshall wrote to Chancellor Matthew Goldstein on Feb. 22.



## FLASHBACK!

days before the CUNY-Ratner divorce made news.

Ratner might have been able to swallow the additional cost, given that the project also includes the rich developer's own apartment at a prime lot at Jay and Street — a corner where he once planned to design a Renzo Piano-designed skyscraper.

A spokesman for Ratner disputed that the developer would be forced to blame for delays built in.

would be the city's tallest condo tower.

But Ratner's team said, "the downtown in the local residential real-state market" makes that dream an impossible one at the time.

Not that she was complacent about this project without Ratner's involvement.

CUNY spokesman said he has had no say in the space would be given to the state Dormitory Authority.

A spokesman for Ratner disputed that the developer would be blamed for delays built in.

Unlike the lab building, the Piñón-designed residential tower would have to go through the city's land-use review procedure, a process that can take eight months (if there is no controversy) to two years (a likely scenario given the 70- to 100-story tower Ratner once sought).

Bronx boosters argued that residential development was challenged by the tight financial markets, but said Downtown Brooklyn would enjoy the residential boom already underway.

"We see a residential component that's already underway," said Joe Chan, president of the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership. "If there's no downtown, it is. The developers now have to be increasingly mindful" of the thousands of units already being built in Downtown.

## Colbert nails our 'Graffiti girl'

By Gersh Kuntzman  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

Stephen Colbert found a way to turn the Brooklyn Paper's famed "Graffiti girl" into a neighbor ratted her out to 311.

But it never let the girl off the hook. "Like all junkies, she's ruining the neighborhood," Colbert said.

The hilarious segment ended up blaming Natalie for the decline in real estate values, the sub-prime mortgage crisis and even Spike Lee's decision to throw a garbage can through the window of Pizzai's at the end of "Do the Right Thing."

The segment recounted a

story well known to readers of The Brooklyn Paper, namely how Natalie fought the law after a neighbor ratted her out to 311.

But it never let the girl off the hook. "Like all junkies, she's ruining the neighborhood," Colbert said.

The hilarious segment ended up blaming Natalie for the decline in real estate values, the sub-prime mortgage crisis and even Spike Lee's decision to throw a garbage can through the window of Pizzai's at the end of "Do the Right Thing."

<http://BrooklynPaper.com>



The Brooklyn Paper File / AP Wirephoto

## WATER...

Continued from page 1

"Ostensibly, what we're saying is that you can live longer and better if you can afford it.

"The people who are using the bottled water would be better off giving their money to purify the water supply for everyone."

New York City's Springwater is indeed good for consumers. But both are well aware of the green trend.

Just recently, the Maine-based bottled-water giant began tout-

ing its "eco-shape bottle," which it claims is made with 30-per-

cent less plastic than a typical half-liter bottle. Meanwhile,

the company that bottles water on the distant Pacific island has com-

mited to acquiring 50 percent of its energy from renewable re-

sources by 2010.

## VOX POP

### Water down

The Park Slope Food Co-op is about to vote on whether to stop selling bottled water, which is a big step, even for a famously environmentally minded supermarket. Here's what some Co-op members had to say:

"I'm in favor of stopping the selling of bottled water. Just think about how much plastic is used, the energy that it takes to move it, break it down and transport it."

Julianna Zaleta, Park Slope

"I'm not excited about the ban, but we do have to attend to the effects plastic has on the environment. But we these individual solutions, like banning bottles, don't quite do enough."

Hugh English, Park Slope

"Sometimes I feel like other issues — like the effect of large corporations on the environment — are more important to battle, rather than people expecting to solve huge problems with their individual consumer choices."

José Saldaña, Prospect Heights

"I think [the ban] is great. New York water is great. We don't need to spend money on something the city gives us for free. We're learning as time goes by that there are luxuries we have that we don't need."

Peter Bergold, Park Slope

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## Sinus treatment at NYM

### New York Methodist Hospital

According to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, 37 million Americans are diagnosed with sinusitis, a chronic infection or inflammation of the sinuses, every year.

People with sinusitis may experience symptoms such as constant nasal congestion, facial pain, headaches, fatigue, and loss of smell.

NYM recently introduced a cut-edge surgical procedure that will improve the lives of countless sinusitis sufferers in Brooklyn and the surrounding areas.

NYM's new procedure alleviates the pain of sinusitis by clearing blockages in the sinuses, opening the sinuses to drain the bacteria that can cause infections.

This new procedure — called balloon sinuplasty — uses a guide-wire and catheter to guide a tiny flexible balloon through the

sinus cavities to the site of the obstruction.

The balloon is gently inflated, which widens the opening of the sinus and clears the blockage.

The balloon is then deflated and removed, and normal functioning

of the sinuses is restored.

Advanced imaging and X-ray technology are used during the surgery to help position the surgical instruments, increasing the precision of the operation.

"Balloon sinuplasty greatly

improves the surgical outcomes for each patient," said Mohns Habermann, F.A.C.S., chief of the Division of Otolaryngology at New York Methodist Hospital, who performs the procedure.

"Since the procedure is minimally invasive and highly focused, the risk of scarring or bleeding is minimized, so patients can look forward to a short, uncomplicated recovery."

"New York Methodist Hospital is proud to be one of the few institutions in Brooklyn to offer this advanced surgical procedure," added Michael Tontini, MD, chairman of surgery at NYM. "Balloon sinuplasty enables the hospital to improve the quality of life for patients who suffer from sinusitis while dramatically enhancing the surgery process."

People with sinusitis are candidates for balloon sinuplasty if they've failed to respond to medical treatments such as nasal sprays, antibiotics, decongestants and corticosteroids. Other factors determine if balloon sinuplasty is the right treatment for a patient with sinusitis, it's important to consult with an otolaryngologist who has experience in this procedure.

The renovation and upgrade project will double the size of the hospital's emergency room, which includes a modified nursery, a new anteroom, and waiting area spaces. Additional renovations will include reconstructing the entrance from the parking garage, while simultaneously enhancing the surgery process.

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For a referral to an otolaryngologist at New York Methodist Hospital, please call 718-499-CARE.

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**PARENT****Grown-ups need their toys, too!****FAMILY CALENDAR**

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay



A scene from "Desmond and the Swamp Barbarian Trap," at BAM's short film festival this weekend.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 8**

10:30 am-3 pm: Short film fest. Brooklyn Academy of Music, 30 Fort Greene Place, at Ashland Place in Fort Greene. \$3. 718-636-4100 for info.

Noon-2:30 pm: Care Bears on the Big Screen. Brooklyn Academy of Music, 30 Fort Greene Place, at Ashland Place in Fort Greene. \$7. 718-636-4100 for info.

Noon-2 pm: Open house.

Noon-2 pm: Open house, Fifth Ave., at Eighth Street in Park Slope. Free. Call 718-632-0030 for info.

12:30 pm-2:30 pm:

"Cinderella." Puppets on Stage. Brooklyn Children's Museum, 200 Park Slope. \$8. 57 kids. Call 718-230-2100 for info.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 9**

11 am-4 pm: Short film fest. See Saturday, March 8.

Noon: Tiny Masters of Today. Brooklyn Children's Museum, 200 Park Slope. \$10. 50 Lafayette Ave., at Ashland Place in Fort Greene. Free. Call 718-722-3210 for info.

2 pm: Plant workshop. Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Ave., at

To your event, e-mail information to [Calendar@BrooklynPaper.com](mailto:Calendar@BrooklynPaper.com).

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an we please just end the Babeland controversy before it even begins?

For the record, Smartmom can't wait for the May opening of Babaland, the sex-toy-friendly sex toys shop on Bergen Street off Fifth Avenue.

And so are plenty of Park Sloperians.

Of course, that didn't prevent the New York Post from coming out of the Murdochian slime to dis the neighborhood with its story about the sex-toy selling sex shop. "Sex 'n' Shop Has Bad Vibes in Park Slope," the paper of right-wing record stated and, naturally, found a few people who it could use as proxies for a sexless, repressed neighborhood.

"I don't think it's the ideal location for a sex shop," said Desmond, who told the Post that he was not looking for yet another "Park Sloperians are idiots" story (versions of which seem to be keeping every town in well occupied lately).

A 32-year-old stay-at-home mom added, "I don't think it's a good idea."

You know where that's headed.

We all remember what hap-

pened in 2002, when the Pink

Montgomery Street in Prospect

Heights, \$8 adults, \$4 seniors

and children under 12, 7-22

7:20 for info.

**12:30 pm and 2:30 pm**

"Cinderella." See Saturday,

March 8.

**2 pm:**

Eggstravaganza The

250th St., between 12th

and 13th avenues in Dyker

Heights. \$10. Call 718-748-5950 for info.

**MONDAY, MARCH 10**

4 pm: Hip-hop dance work-

shop. Brooklyn Center's

Central branch (Flatbush

Ave. at Eastern Parkway on

Coney Island Avenue). Call

718-230-2100 for info.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 15**

10 am-4 pm: Kids theater work-

shop. Brooklyn Center's

Central branch (Flatbush

Ave. at Eastern Parkway on

Coney Island Avenue). Call

718-230-2100 for info.

**12:30 pm and 2:30 pm:**

"Cinderella." See Saturday,

March 8.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 16**

2 pm: Kids theater. "Sleeping

Beauty." Brooklyn Center's

Central branch (Flatbush

Ave. at Eastern Parkway on

Coney Island Avenue). Call

718-230-2100 for info.

**12:30 pm and 2:30 pm:**

"Cinderella." See Saturday,

March 8.

**1 pm:**

Kids theater. "Sleeping

Beauty." Brooklyn Center's

Central branch (Flatbush

Ave. at Eastern Parkway on

Coney Island Avenue). Call

718-230-2100 for info.

**1 pm:**

"Cinderella." See Saturday,

March 8.



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Public Notice

### THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR-HIRE CAR SERVICE

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is seeking Requests for Proposals (RFP) from qualified service providers for hire car services for cruise ship passengers traveling from the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal to locations in the metropolitan area.

A pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2008, at 12:30 pm at Pier 12, New York Marine Terminals, Columbia Street, Brooklyn, New York. Interested parties shall RSVF to Mike Devaney at (212) 592-5000 or (212) 592-5006, to confirm their attendance and/or receive travel directions. Two photo ID's are required to attend this meeting.

Interested persons may request a copy of the request for proposal by email to [gatb@panynj.com](mailto:gatb@panynj.com) or fax to 212-436-3659. Reference RFP#151007. All inquiries, your email should include the following information, name, email address, contact person and telephone number.

This document can be obtained online through this ad on [www.panynj.com](http://www.panynj.com).

Proposals shall be due by 2:00 PM on March 17, 2008, or as otherwise specified in the RFP. All correspondence and questions shall be addressed to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Purchasing Services Division, Procurement Department, One Madison Ave, 7th floor, New York, NY 10010.

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## JOB FAIRS

March 4th and 18th  
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